

Iowa Department of Human Services

Offer #401-HHS-010: Children with Disabilities

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This offer includes the following appropriations:

Family Support Subsidy

Program Description:

Who:

- Families with children who have serious emotional disturbance, mental retardation, developmental disabilities, or brain injuries are eligible for a Family Support Subsidy (FSS) if their net income is below \$40,000. In SFY 2011 the Family Support Subsidy program can serve a monthly average of 278 children. 71% of children receiving a Family Support Subsidy also receive Medicaid (HCBS) waiver services. In 2006 the Legislature changed the eligibility criteria by excluding children who receive a special needs adoption subsidy. The legislation also excludes children who receive waiver services and reside in a county where Children-At-Home (CAH) services are available.
- In the 2010 session, the Legislature voted to sunset the Family Support Subsidy program. Effective July 1, 2010, DHS stopped enrolling any new children into the FSS program from the waiting list and stopped accepting new applications. The program continues to be available to children enrolled in the program as of June 30, 2010. The last child will age out in November 2025.
- Families with children who have serious emotional disturbance, mental retardation, developmental disabilities, or brain injuries are eligible for CAH services if their net income is below \$60,000. The CAH program anticipates serving over 650 children in SFY 2011.

What:

The two Family Support programs were developed and implemented to increase the chances of children with severe disabilities to remain in their homes.

- Family Support Subsidy (FSS): The Family Support Subsidy program provides a monthly payment of \$265.63 to families to help keep them together by defraying some of the special costs of caring for a child with a disability at home. Families have flexibility to decide how to best spend the subsidy to meet their child's special needs.
- Children-At-Home (CAH) program: The Children-At-Home program provides similar assistance to that provided by the FSS program, except that the assistance is provided on an "as needed" basis and is generally time-limited, in many cases one-time-only. Families receive an average of \$350 per year under this program. In addition to helping families purchase needed services and resources; this program also provides service coordination when needed by the family. In some cases, this involves helping the family access services available through other community resources.

How:**Program**

Family Support Subsidy: The FSS program consists of a monthly cash payment made to families who have a child with a disability.

Children-at-Home: DHS contracts with eight local agencies to provide funding and resource coordination in 20 counties for families of children with developmental delays through the CAH program. Each site is required to form a parent advisory council. Each council sets local spending guidelines and helps identify additional local resources. CAH sites are able to leverage additional resources for families through their service coordination activities. Some of the needs include:

- Respite, child care for older youth, and specialized recreational activities
- Ramps for wheelchairs and help to purchase vans with lifts
- Educational software
- Specialized clothing
- Transportation and lodging costs during prolonged hospital stays
- Specialized therapy
- Nutritional supplements not paid by Medicaid

Service Support

- Corporate oversight and leadership: Includes overall agency strategic management and accountability for the achievement of results.
- Program support: Includes developing and maintaining the administrative rules and employees' manual for the FSS and CAH program, to ensure compliance with all relevant state and Federal laws and regulations.
- Eligibility Determination: Includes review and determination of eligibility for the Family Support Subsidy.
- Program Monitoring: Ongoing program statistics are kept to inform decision-making.
- Constituent Relations: Includes responding to complaints and questions from providers, parents, and advocacy organizations, as well as responding to exceptions to policy. Provides support to the Comprehensive Family Services Council.
- Financial Accountability: Includes developing and monitoring budget, and providing reports as required. DHS also reviews and approves payments to families in the Family Support Program and the Children-at-Home contractors.
- Contract Management: DHS maintains and manages contracts with Children-at-Home providers.

Results Achieved:

Result	SFY 2010 Actual Level	SFY 2011 Budget Level	SFY 2012 Offer Level
Continue serving those children participating in the Family Support Subsidy program as of June 30, 2010, who remain eligible. (Monthly average)	354	278	245
Maintain the number of children served by Children-At-Home	600	650	650

Sustaining service delivery assumes the level of funding requested in the offer as well as full funding of salary adjustment. If funding is insufficient in either area, results to be achieved will be modified to reflect the impact.

In SFY 2011, \$100,000 in state funds from the underground storage tank fund was redirected to help sustain the Family Support Subsidy program. With 2010 legislation ending enrollment of any new children in the program after June 30, 2010, the number of children participating will decrease over time as children age out or leave due to other reasons. Due to the cost savings associated with fewer participants, the Department's request for SFY 2012 funding is reduced by \$100,000, the equivalent of the amount of underground storage funds included in the status quo funding amount.

Impact of Proposed Budget on Results:

Current Results:

- Family Support Subsidy (FSS): The FSS program is funded at \$782,498. It provides monthly cash payments to families with a net income below \$40,000 that have a child with serious emotional disturbance, mental retardation, developmental disabilities, or brain injury. The FSS program can serve a monthly average of 245 children at the current funding level.
- Children-At-Home (CAH): The CAH program is funded at \$385,500. It provides time-limited "as needed" services to families with a net income below \$60,000 who have a child with a disability. The CAH program is located in 20 counties and will serve an estimated 650 children in SFY 2012.

Legal requirements:

Federal:

Not applicable.

State:

The Family Support Subsidy and Children-At-Home programs are governed under Chapter 225C.46-7 of the Iowa Code.